

Amendments to the Abstract

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- Method (300) and apparatus (~~100~~) for validating application level gateway (~~ALG~~) files or firewall rule sets (200). The method and apparatus include receiving (~~304~~), at a bi-directional communications device (~~130~~), an application level gateway (~~ALG~~) file (200), and comparing (~~308, 310, 314, 320, 326, 332, 336~~) at least one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with features of said bi-directional communications device. In an instance where all of the compatibility parameters compare favorably, the ALG file is stored (~~340~~) at the bi-directional communications device. --